

LACERTA AQUATICA.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus tetrapodum, caudatum, nudum.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 359.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

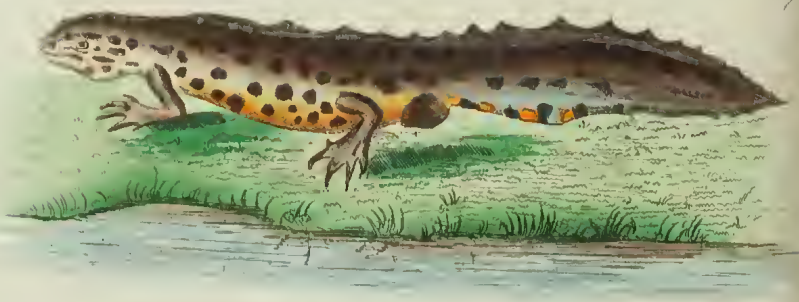
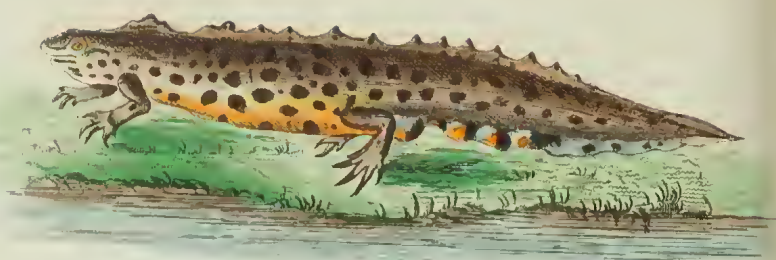
LACERTA AQUATICA olivaceo-fusca nigro maculata, subtus crocea, cauda ancipiti lateribus sinuata.

LACERTA cauda teretiuscula mediocri, pedibus muticis, palmis tetradactylis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 370.

Lacertam aquaticam pariunt fere omnes aquæ stagnantes, eadem, ut plurimum, magnitudine, quam cernere est in tabula. Color illi est olivario-fuscus, plus minus saturatus in diversis speciminibus, corpore superiori caudaque nigro maculatis. Abdomen aurantio-pallidum, nigro similiter conspersum. Latior est mari cauda, compressaque ad latera, supra infraque inæqualiter sinuata; quæ partes sinuatæ, si accuratius inspiciantur, admodum pellucidæ, vasa per quæ sanguis defertur pulcherrime distributa monstrant: adeo ut vix aliud animal microscopicis observationibus de sanguinis circulatione melius inserviat.

ferviat. Lacertæ aquaticæ cuticulas frequenter exuunt, in aquis sæpius visas, pellucas, tenuissimas. Ova pariunt conglomerata, globulis singulis fusco-flavo-pallentibus, et glutine circumfuso inclusis. Larvæ pinnulis ramosis branchialibus instructuuntur, quæ lacertis adultis et perfectis de pectore utrinque decidunt.



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THE WATER-NEWT.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body four-footed, tailed, naked.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Olive-brown Water-Lizard spotted with black,
with orange-colored abdomen, and sharp-
edged sinuated tail.

The smaller or common WATER-NEWT.

The *Lacerta Aquatica* of Linnæus, or common Water-Newt, is an inhabitant of almost all stagnant waters, and is generally of the size represented in the present plate. Its color is an olive-brown, more or less deep in different individuals, the upper part of the body, and the tail, being spotted with black: the abdomen is of a pale orange-color, and is spotted, in a similar manner with black: the tail of the male is broader, more compressed on the sides, and more sinuated at the edges than that of the female: these sinuated parts are extremely transparent, and if accurately examined, will be found to exhibit in a beautiful manner, the distribution of the blood-vessels; for which reason this animal is, perhaps,
better

better calculated than any other, for a microscopical survey of the circulation. The Water-Newt frequently casts its skin, which is extremely thin and pellucid, and may often be seen floating in the water. This species deposits its ova or spawn in small clusters, consisting of several palish yellow-brown globules, included in the surrounding gluten. The young or Larvæ are furnished with ramified branchial fins on each side the breast, which fall off when the animal arrives at its complete or perfect state.